Digital Divide
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What is the Digital Divide Gant?

A: The Digital Divide grant a one-time $54 million formula grant using a portion of the State's federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This funding will be disbursed to public school districts to purchase digital devices and internet connectivity for one-to-one student use based on need and the availability of philanthropic donations.

Q: What can I purchase with the grant?

A: Since this is an emergency grant to the districts, the districts can only purchase devices for students which can include hotspots (data devices) and computer devices. The costs of hot spot services, software licenses, equipment accessories are not allowed; unless it is sold as part of the device (included as bundled cost).

Q: What is the grant program term?

A: This is a three-and-a-half-month program. The term date is 7/16/2020 through October 31, 2020. The sole purpose of the grant is to provide quick funding to districts to purchase technology equipment (consider this emergency funding to be spent as quickly as possible by the district).

Q: How is the Digital Divide Grant reward calculated?

A: A formula will be applied using district's IT surveys, TIA and CARES funding and philanthropical donations.

Q: How do I complete my Digital Divide Application?

A. The first part is to establish the need of the district. The district will complete the Digital Need and the Digital Divide plan tabs in the application and submit.

The second part is partnering with philanthropic organizations for donations to the district. Once the philanthropic donation has been entered into the application; the system generates the final allocation amount based on the data the district has submitted.

Third, the district will be notified to return to their application and budget their technology needs.

Q: I entered my district's technology needs but I don't see my grant allocation?

A: In the Award Calculation tab, the district's final allocation will be determined by a formula using the variables in the tab's step 1 through 7. After the district enters their technology needs and pledged philanthropical donations into the application; this will calculate the final allocation called the "Adjusted Award Amount" in the "Award Calculation" tab

Q: Can I modify/update survey data for the Digital Divide Grant?

A: No, modifications and/or updates are not permissible as the formula for the award calculation was based on the survey data provided by the districts.

Q: What documentation do I need to upload?

A: The districts are not required to upload any documents in the first part (need analysis) of the Digital Divide application.

Q: Am I required to submit the Digital Divide application if my district does not receive an award?

A: No, the district is not required to apply if they do not receive an award.